## Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method for allowing a predetermined access to at least a subset of a software application, the method comprising the steps of:

calculating an identifier based at least in part on a user geometry file, wherein the user geometry file corresponds to an injection molded component;

generating an access key based at least in part on the identifier; and

validating the access key against a user data key and, on successful validation, granting the predetermined access to the at least a subset of the software application thereby enabling operation of the software application with the user geometry file, wherein access is limited to execution of the software with the geometry file of the injection molded component.

Claim 2 (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of executing an activation routine on unsuccessful validation.

Claim 3 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined access comprises run permitted access.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the user geometry file comprises input data for the software application.

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Claim 5 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the identifier comprises a checksum based at least in part on a cyclic redundancy check.

Claim 6 (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the user geometry file includes at least one file characteristic.

Claim 7 (original) The method of claim 6 wherein the at least one file characteristic comprises at least one of an element count, a node count, a model name, and a match ratio.

Claim 8 (original) The method of claim 6 wherein the access key further comprises the at least one file characteristic.

Claim 9 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the access key further comprises a software application signature.

Claim 10 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the access key further comprises at least one system characteristic.

Claim 11 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the access key is encrypted.

Claim 12 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the access key has a limited validity lifetime.

Claim 13 (original)  The method of claim 12 wherein the limited validity lifetime is determined at least in part by at least one of an elapsed time from access key generation, a number of access key validations, and a frequency of access key validations.

Claim 14 (previously presented)  The method of claim 1 wherein the user data key comprises a previously calculated result based at least in part on the user geometry file.

Claims 15 - 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (currently amended)  A network enabled application software distribution method including the steps of:

provideing a restricted use application software program;

loading the program onto a user's computer;

establishing communications between the user's computer and another computer;

uploading a fingerprint file from the user's computer to the other computer, wherein the fingerprint file is based at least in part on a user geometry file corresponding to an injection molded component;

downloading a key file from the other computer to the user's computer; and

running the application software program on the user's computer with the user geometry file, wherein access is limited to execution of the software with the geometry file of the injection molded component.

Claims 29-45 (canceled)


Claim 46 (previously presented)  The method of claim 1, wherein the software application comprises process simulation software.


Claim 47 (previously presented)  The method of claim 46, wherein the validating step comprises validating the access key against a user data key and, on successful validation, granting the predetermined access to the process simulation software, thereby enabling process simulation with the user geometry file.


Claim 48 (previously presented)  The method of claim 46 wherein the software application performs a simulation of an injection molding process.


Claim 49 (previously presented)  The method of claim 48, wherein the user geometry file corresponds to an injection molded component.


Claim 50 (previously presented)  The method of claim 49, wherein access to the process simulation software application is limited to simulations of the injection molded component corresponding to the user geometry file.